

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17304 131201Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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R 131204Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4034
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17304

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FR
SUBJECT: NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, LOUIS DAUGE

REF: PARIS 16459

1. BORN MARCH 13, 1918, LOUIS DAUGE HOLDS DEGREES IN LITERATURE AND LAW AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. HE SERVED IN THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II AND IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE CROIX DE GUERRE AND A CHEVALIER IN THE LEGION OF HONOR.
2. DAUGE ENTERED THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN OCTOBER 1945, AND HIS ASSIGNMENTS HAVE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: MEXICO CITY (1946-48); QUAI D'ORSAY (1949-51); BANGKOK, WHERE HE WAS ALSO FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE IN ECAFE (1951-54); ASIAN OCEANIC SECTION, QUAI D'ORSAY (1954-55); ATTACHED TO SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (1955-57); FRENCH MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS (1957-62); ALGERIAN AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI (1962-64); AMBASSADOR TO THE CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) (1966-68). HE WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA IN 1968 AND APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH SIHANOUK.

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3. DAUGE REMAINED IN CAMBODIA AFTER SIHANOUK WAS DEPOSED IN 1970. HOWEVER, IN 1971 THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO AVOID BEING COMPLETELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT BY REDUCING THE LEVEL OF ITS REPRESENTATION. DAUGE ACCORDINGLY RETURNED TO PARIS FOR CONSULTATIONS AND HOME LEAVE IN JULY 1971 AND DID NOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA. HE WAS NOT REASSIGNED, BUT GIVEN

A FEW ODD JOBS OCCASIONALLY, SUCH AS MANAGING THE FEBRUARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM. THE QUAI, REALIZING THAT THIS SITUATION HAD BEEN PROLONGED EXCESSIVELY, NAMED HIM AMBASSADOR TO POLAND IN LATE 1973.

4. DAUGE SPEAKS EXCELLENT AND UNACCENTED ENGLISH. HE IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE US, NO DOUBT IN PART DUE TO HIS TOUR AT THE UN. HE HAS NEVER SHARED THE ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED SOME OF THE FRENCH HANDLING INDOCHINA MATTERS. HE WAS A PARTICULARLY VALUABLE CONTACT FOR AMBASSADOR SWANK IN CAMBODIA.

5. MR. DAUGE IS FOND OF HUNTING AND ENJOYS WEEKENDS IN THE COUNTRY. HE IS A HARD WORKER, AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF ENJOYING INTIMATE HOSPITALITY RATHER THAN LARGE RECEPTIONS, TO WHICH HE USUALLY ARRIVES LATE. MADAME DAUGE, THE FORMER EDITH DE PONTON D'AMECOURT, ALSO SPEAKS ENGLISH, BUT NOT AS WELL AS HER HUSBAND. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, VERONIQUE AND STEPHANE.

6. EMBASSY WARSAW MAY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER INFORMATION BASED ON DAUGE'S SERVICE IN POLAND.

7. IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF "TRIREGIONALISM", WE THINK THAT EMBASSY TOKYO WOULD BENEFIT FROM MAKING AN ACTIVE ATTEMPT TO CULTIVATE AMBASSADOR DAUGE WHO WILL NO DOUBT BE MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING THAN HIS PREDECESSORS. WE BELIEVE THAT AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD MET

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DAUGE IN CAMBODIA, AND IF NOT, THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WHICH SFRC STAFFERS LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE HAD WITH DAUGE PROVIDES A GOOD BASIS ON WHICH A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP COULD BE BUILT.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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